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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

ON THE

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

DEPOSITION OF GEORGE S. DE MOHRENSCHILDT

Report of Proceedings

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nice, and some of them less nice, and some of them very much interested in the United States, some of them unfriendly -- that sort of vague recollection.

Mr. Jenner. Did you engage him in conversation respecting Communism as a political ideal and his reactions to that?

Mr. DeMohrenschildt. He kept on repeating that he was not a Communist. I asked him point blank, "Are you a member of the Communist Party?" And he said no. He said, "I am a Marxist". Kept on repeating it.

Mr. Jenner. Did you ask him what he meant by that?

Mr. DeMohrenschildt. I never frankly asked him to elaborate on that, because again, you know the word "Marxism" is very boring to me. Just the sound of that word is boring to me.

Mr. DeMohrenschildt. What impression did you get in that connection as to whether he was seeking some mean or middle ground between democracy and what he thought Communism was?

Mr DeMohrenschildt. Possibly he was seeking for something, but knowing what kind of brains he had, and what kind of education, I was not interested in listening to him, because it was nothing, it was zero.

Mr. Jenner. I see. It was your impression, then, he could contribute nothing?

Mr. DeMohrenschildt. No, he could contribute absolutely nothing except for a remark like that about the meetings, which was just an ordinary remark a person of his intelligence could

and forbade her to smoke. This is the reason -- one of the reasc they fought so bitterly -- because he would take the cigaret away from her and slap her.

Mr. Jenner. In your presence?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. In my presence, would take the cigare away from her and push her, "You are not going to do that", in a dictatorial way. So I would say, "Now, stop it, let her smoke." And then he would relax. But that is the type of person he was. But not in our presence -- when we were away, Marina said he woul not let her smoke nor drink, I think. He refused to let her drink either. And she liked to have a drink. With all her defects, she is more or less a normal person, and rather happy-go-lucky, a very happy-go-lucky girl.

Mr. Jenner. What about his drinking?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. I never saw him drink. Maybe he woul take a very little, but I never saw him drink more than half a glass-- as far as I remember. I didn't pay too much attention. Maybe that is why he was tense, because he did not drink enough. He was always tense. That guy was always under some kind of pres sure.

Mr. Jenner. You have that impression?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes -- always some kind of a pressur

Mr. Jenner. And this was an inward pressure, you thought?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes -- some inward pressure.

Mr. Jenner. See if I can refresh your recollection a little

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. I do not recall either. I think they possibly have come by themselves. Maybe somebody else brought them. Maybe Everett brought them.

Mr. Jenner. Either that or Everett?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes, somebody else might have.

Mr. Jenner. It was not your party?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. No.

Mr. Jenner. You assisted him, however, in arranging it?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes, exactly.

Mr. Jenner. Do you recall anything said at that meeting with respect to their eliciting from Oswald his views with respect to Russia, and in particular the former government in Russia?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. I remember quite a vivid discussio going on, you know, because all those people are highly intell gent and very intellectual group of people interested in what goes on in the world, and as far as I know none of them has ever seen a Russian, and it was just like a new specimen of humanity, you see, that appeared in front of them, both Marina and Oswald, an American but who had been to Russia. Bu I don't remember any particular discussion or disagreement or agreement. I think probably Oswald was talking most of the ti

Mr. Jenner. Oswald was pretty proud, was he, of his ability to speak Russian?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. He was proud of it, yes, because

it is quite an achievement for a man with a poor scholastic background to have learned the language. It is surprising to me. It was an extraordinary surprise for my wife and myself that he was able to learn to speak it so well for such a short time as he was supposed to have stayed in Russia.

As I understand it, he stayed there some two years, I gather.

Mr. Jenner. That is all.

Mr. Mohrenschildt. And it is amazing.

Mr. Jenner. In speaking of that, as I recall, you noted he had a conversational command of the language.

Mr. Mohrenschildt. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. But that he did not speak a refined Russian.

Mr. Mohrenschildt. No, no, not a refined Russian.

Mr. Jenner. He had trouble with his grammar?

Mr. Mohrenschildt. Yes, yes.

Mr. Jenner. Were there occasions when you knew them in which Marina would correct his grammar and there would be an altercation between them or something?

Mr. Mohrenschildt. Oh, yes. There was bickering all the time. There was bickering all the time. I don't remember whethe it was especially on the point of grammar, but there was bickerir between them all the time.

But as I said before, the bickering was mainly because Mari smoked and he didn't approve of it, that she liked to drink and he did not approve of it. I think she liked to put the make-up

Mr. Jenner. Now, you say in that letter, after expressing your sympathies to Mrs. Auchincloss, and your very kind comments about Mrs. Kennedy, "I do hope that Marina and her children (I understand she has two now) will not suffer too badly throughout their lives, and that the stigma will not affect the innocent children. Somehow, I still have a lingering doubt, notwithstanding all the evidence, of Oswald's guilt."

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Exactly.

Mr. Jenner. Now, please explain that remark in that letter.

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Unless the man is guilty, I will not be his judge -- unless he is proven to be guilty by the court, I will not be his judge, and there will be always a doubt in my mind, and throughout my testimony I explained sufficiently why I have those doubts. And mainly because he did not have any permanent animosity for President Kennedy. That is why I have the doubts.

Mr. Jenner. And that expression in this letter is based on all the things you have told me about in this long examination?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. A natural, I would assume, view on the part of any humanitarian person -- that you just cannot imagine anybody murdering anybody else?

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. And he in turn had been murdered.

Mr. De Mohrenschildt. Yes.